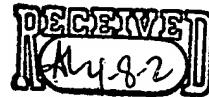


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A.W.~~**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.8, is being sent via Facsimile at 703-746-7239 and also deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

Date: April 5, 2002 By: George J. Maccari

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**PATENT**

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| In re application of: Burke et al. | Docket No.: 32277.0200 |
| Serial No.: 09/267,176 | Group Art Unit: 2166 |
| Filed: March 12, 1999 | Examiner: Morgan, R. |
| Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A UTILITY PROCESSING SYSTEM | |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231-0001

Commissioner:

Applicant hereby responds to the Final Office Action dated December 5, 2001 in the above-referenced patent application. A Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) was filed on March 5, 2002. This response is being filed by facsimile with a confirmatory copy being sent via first class mail.

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows, and consider the following remarks:

04/18/2002 A:WHITE1 00000002 192814 09267176
01 FC:103 CARLSOBPIIXI162900.1
180.00 CH

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)

Applicant(s): Burke, et al.

Docket No.
32277.0200Serial No.
09/267,176Filing Date
March 12, 1999Examiner
R. MorganGroup Art Unit
2166

Invention: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A UTILITY PROCESSING SYSTEM

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

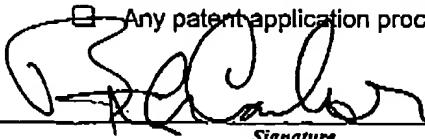
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED

| | CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT | HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR | NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT | RATE | ADDITIONAL FEE |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS | 41 | 31 = | 10 | x \$18.00 | \$180.00 |
| INDEP. CLAIMS | 3 | 3 = | 0 | x \$84.00 | \$0.00 |
| Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT | | | | | \$180.00 |

- No additional fee is required for amendment.
- Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-2814 in the amount of \$180.00
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- A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
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- Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.
- Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.



Signature

Dated: April 5, 2002

Brett A. Carlson, Reg. No. 39,928
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Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Suzie G. Mascari

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FROM: Brett A. Carlson PHONE: 602-382-6236

Appl. No.: 09/267,176
 Filing Date: March 12, 1999
 Docket No.: 32277.0200
 RE: Group Art Unit: 2166

MESSAGE:

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